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News Letter

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LONG-RANGE WORLD FOOD POLICY DISCUSSED AT FAO CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN

The Copenhagen conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was important because of appraisals made of FAO's work in its early months and because it will serve to guide policy in the months ahead. The central problem under consideration was long-range world food policy. A report on the conference states that this problem, which will reappear when the current emergency ends, is one of unmarketable surpluses of food existing in a world where hundreds of millions of persons are underfed.

Sir John Boyd Orr, in presenting his "Proposals for a World Food Board," termed the plan "a world food policy based on human needs." The two great problems—(1) hunger, and (2) the increasing power of farm production—should, he said, cancel each other out, "but they can cancel out only through an international agency which can deal with food problems as a whole." Sir John sees the proposed World Food Board as such an agency, designed to solve those twin problems. He added, "Science has made the world so small and brought the nations into such close relation with each other, that it is now a question of one world or no world."

A Preparatory Commission was created "to work out concrete recommendations for an intergovernment program for preventing both shortages and surpluses of food and other agricultural products." The date set for the Commission to convene in Washington was October 28, with representatives of 16 FAO member nations comprising the group. The Commission was charged with working out the details of an international program at the earliest possible date.

While creating the Preparatory Commission and emphasizing long-range problems the September Conference also took account of the fact that the postwar period of emergency food shortage is by no means

ended. It was noted that for the next few months the urgent problem will be "to produce as much as possible, husband what is produced, and get it to the people who need it most."

1947 OUTLOOK CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 7-11

As we go to press, the 24th annual Outlook Conference is convening. The program, as in other years, includes facts about the national income in general, farm income, the industrial outlook, developments affecting market outlets for farm products, the outlook for farm family living, and the outlook for various agricultural commodities.

These factors in the domestic situation are presented against a background of facts on the international situation, without which the 1947 outlook for the United States or any other nation could not be viewed in proper perspective.

Therefore, following the opening of the conference by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, two papers on international relations and international finance are scheduled. A presentation of the world situation for food and agriculture provides additional background for a consideration of the domestic farm and home outlook.

The session on the outlook for nutrition opens with a paper on the world nutrition situation by Hazel K. Stiebeling, Chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, who returned recently from the FAO Copenhagen conference. Nutrition programs in the USDA will be discussed by representatives of several bureaus of the Department. The relation of the outlook to various programs of the USDA will be presented by four speakers.

The material presented at the annual Outlook Conference has always been anticipated eagerly and used widely as the basis for economic planning in several fields. The reports of this year's meeting, including international relations in a troubled world, will be no exception so far as demand for and value

of the material is concerned. Unfortunately, however, funds for duplicating copies of the outlook reports and chart book do not permit as wide a distribution as usual. State and county extension service offices are a source of information on the Washington Outlook Conference, and also of information on and reports of outlook conferences now being scheduled in the various States.

NATIONAL GARDEN PROGRAM FOR 1947

Next year's home and community gardens have been on this year's calendar since September 16 and 17 when basic recommendations for the 1947 national garden program were developed in Washington. The occasion was a joint meeting of the National Garden Advisory Committee and the Department of Agriculture Committee on Home Gardening, at which plans were made for a National Garden Conference on November 7 and 8.

Discussion at this conference will include ways and means of assuring adequate supplies of health-protecting foods in view of world needs and the great demands for food both at home and abroad. The need for continued emphasis on home vegetable gardens and fruit plantings will be stressed. Ways to obtain increased consumption of vegetables and fruits by the large proportion of families in this country whose diets are inadequate will also be discussed. How we can obtain a more rapid adoption of the advances in horticultural research and improved practices is also a subject to which the conference will give its attention. Making home life increasingly desirable through the improvement and beautifying of home and community grounds is another topic on the agenda.

The national garden program of 1947 will be the seventh one sponsored and guided by the Department of Agriculture. The success of these programs—in terms of millions of families participating and millions of tons of food produced in home and community gardens—has been due to the fine coordination of effort. The Department has had the cooperation of State agricultural colleges, garden clubs, magazines, radio, the press, the seed and horticultural trades, many types of organizations, and innumerable volunteer garden leaders. Nutrition committees, having played an important part in the garden program each year, will be pleased to know that 1947 plans are now in the mill.

ALABAMA'S SEVENTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL LUNCHROOM MANAGERS

The seventh annual conference and workshop for school lunchroom managers in Alabama was held at the State University June 2-8. Ninety-four managers from 42 of the 67 counties in the State attended this working conference. Five topics, each with a discussion leader, formed the agenda for the morning sessions during the week. The school lunchroom managers were divided into five groups. By means of a rotating schedule for the five mornings, each group met with the different leaders and in the course of the week covered the five topics. In the afternoon all met together for discussions, demonstrations, and to see motion-picture films.

The noon and evening meals were tied in with the objectives of the conference. Lunch was prepared each day by one group of managers, and was served in the home-economics tearoom. The evening meal hour was used as a means of demonstrating "special event meals" that the lunchroom managers might have occasion to serve, such as a school banquet, buffet supper, and picnic lunch.

The Alabama School Lunchroom Managers Association met during the conference, strengthened its organization, and discussed the need for, and means by which the association might prepare, a manual for school lunchroom workers.

At the last session of the conference each group leader presented a summary of the points developed by the various groups. Later a mimeographed summary of the conference was mailed to each lunchroom manager who attended.

OTHER SCHOOL-LUNCH WORKSHOPS

Recognition of the need for in-service training for school lunchroom managers and workers was evidenced by the fact that a number of colleges and universities set up school-lunch workshops last summer, some of them for the first time. One of these was described briefly in the August issue of the News Letter, as a State item from North Dakota. Indiana University, Iowa State College, University of Puerto Rico, Teachers College, Columbia University, and New York University also conducted school-lunch workshops. The University of Tennessee offered a course in Institution Management, part of which was planned for persons interested in food service in school lunchrooms.

NATIONAL SCHOOL-LUNCH CONFERENCE IN
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 22-23

Agenda for a 2-day working conference of State school-lunch program leaders is being completed as this News Letter goes to press. A representative of the school-lunch contracting agency of each State (in most cases the Department of Education), as well as a representative of each State PMA office, will attend. Now that each of the 48 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories have signed agreements with the Department of Agriculture covering the operation of the National School Lunch Program, not only uniform, but also efficient administration must be assured. The purpose of the conference is, therefore, to discuss objectives and limitations under the permanent grant-in-aid program, and to establish complete understanding on general policies and administration.

Nutrition committees will be interested in obtaining first-hand reports of this meeting from the State representatives who attend it.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

IOWA.—At the September meeting of the State Nutrition Council, attention was given to suggestions made by various members for a 1946-47 Nutrition Council program. These suggestions included subjects in the fields of food production and processing, legislation, the present health program, and the school-lunch program. When the final list of program suggestions is compiled, the Council will submit it to the press and to various groups to announce, as a means of encouraging community nutrition programs.

Special interest was expressed in the school-lunch program. The Council went on record as in favor of the school-lunch program, and interested in helping to get the maximum number of communities in the State to participate. The Council considers that schools unable to serve a "Type A" lunch should be encouraged to follow a plan for serving a supplementary lunch.

Means of making lunches available to children in small schools, particularly rural schools, was a topic under consideration. It was pointed out that the county superintendent of schools is a key person to assist in getting the school-lunch program established in rural schools. That the success of the

program depends upon full cooperation of the community was emphasized.

It was agreed that all agencies on the Council should give help in promoting the use of abundant foods in school feeding, obtaining facts on abundances from time to time from PMA. The question of the quality of milk served in school lunches was raised, and the possibility of using small pasteurizers in small schools if the milk was of uncertain quality was discussed.

One purpose of the meeting was to consider the function of the State Nutrition Council. The group agreed that the Council should emphasize "nutritional betterment" and place minimum emphasis on nutritional deficiencies. The Council should serve as a clearing house for information relative to what each agency and group represented on the State Nutrition Committee is doing in the interest of nutritional betterment. It was decided that the secretary for the Council would solicit information from all members every 2 or 3 months regarding specific nutrition activities of agencies or groups in the State. These findings are to be compiled as a fact sheet which will be sent to all members of the Council.

UTAH.—The State Nutrition Committee issued a News Letter each month from September 1945 through May 1946, primarily as a means of keeping in touch with local nutrition committees. Its content proved a useful means of suggesting plans for active programs and sharing reports of State and local nutrition activities.

The May 1946 News Letter, under the heading "Do You Know?" listed outstanding accomplishments of the State Nutrition Committee, as follows:

1. Enlarged membership to include A. F. of L., Farm Bureau, Utah State Restaurant Association, Division of Sanitation of Utah State Department of Health, State Library Association, and State Department of Welfare.
2. Worked on a flour-enrichment program.
3. Had a nutrition exhibit at the State fair.
4. Developed radio programs emphasizing nutrition.
5. Published articles on nutrition in local newspapers.
6. Worked to further the School Lunch Program.

7. Worked to improve the milk supply in Utah.
8. Assisted with canning demonstrations throughout the State.
9. Stressed the use of iodized salt.
10. Gave assistance to the Fat Salvage Program.

The same issue made an appeal for local action in a section entitled: "Is Your Local Nutrition Committee Functioning?" Points raised were:

1. Is your local Nutrition Committee organized and actively planning its work for this year?

2. Nutrition programs are as important in the postwar period as they were during the war.

3. Utah's nutrition program depends primarily on the activities of local nutrition committees.

4. Has your committee reported the name and address of the chairman to the State chairman?

5. Turn to your State Nutrition Committee for help.

One issue was given over entirely to facts about the Famine Emergency Campaign and suggestions for carrying on a community food-conservation program. In January the school-lunch program was featured, and the importance of reviewing and supporting legislation was stressed. Suggestions for becoming completely informed on the local school-lunch program included: (1) Having each committee member visit the school lunch, (2) inviting the school-lunch supervisor to talk at a nutrition committee meeting, and (3) developing an educational program for parents around the importance of the school lunch and of home meals planned in relation to food served at school.

It is interesting to know how the State Nutrition Committee produced and financed the News Letter. As the committee had no operating funds, one member agency, the home economics division of the State Department of Public Instruction, assumed printing and mailing costs. The consultant for the Department of Family Life Education was the editor and made financial arrangements. This 1-page letter, mimeographed in two columns on only one side of the paper, carries a monthly message, which, in the words of the secretary of the committee, is "worthy of your consideration." The colored band across the top on which the masthead is printed, and the use of paper of a different color each month

add to the attractiveness of the publication.

INDIANA.—Reports from the Fountain County Nutrition Council indicate that the Council has been very active during the last year and has a full program of work ahead in its cooperation on an organized school-health program. Plans for this health program included a "School-Lunch School," or institute, which was held on September 27 under the sponsorship of the County Nutrition Council. All school-lunch cooks, school-lunch sponsors, and home-economics teachers in the county were urged to attend. The State Board of Health, Purdue University, the Farm Bureau, and other agencies cooperated in the institute, one purpose of which was to encourage similar programs in all the counties of the State.

For some time the Fountain County Nutrition Council has directed its efforts primarily toward the development of the school-lunch program. Full support of the advisory committee, plus the cooperation of the Farm Bureau, the Soil Conservation District Staff, and the Wabash Valley Chapter of the Friends of the Land, as well as the interest of teachers, cooks, and sponsors, has made the whole project a "help-each-other" affair.

The printed letterhead of the Fountain County Nutrition Council is in itself significant of cooperation and action. The names of the seven members of the advisory committee, with their official connection, are listed, as is the name and address of the chairman of the council. Cooperation with "State and National Nutrition Program" is stated by means of a symbol or seal which the Council obtained in mat form and reproduced on the letterhead.

Sincerely yours,



M. L. Wilson, Chief,
Nutrition Programs



W. H. Sebrell, Associate Chief,
Nutrition Programs